

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original) A method of image filtering, comprising:

- (a) computing edge intensity and direction for each pixel in an image;
- (b) filtering said image with a filter which, for each pixel, smoothes in a direction parallel to the edge found in step (a) for said each pixel;
- (c) interpolating said image and said filtered image from step (b) wherein said interpolating at said each pixel depends upon said intensity found in step (a).

Claim 2 (original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

- (a) said computing of step (a) of claim 1 includes
- (i) computing variations in pixel values for horizontal, vertical, and diagonals at said each pixel; and
- (ii) computing edge direction and intensity from said variations of (i).

Claim 3 (original) The method of claim 1, wherein:

- (a) said filter of step (b) of claim 1 for said each pixel is a rotation according to said edge direction of step (a) of claim 1 of a fixed filter.

Claim 4 (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein:

- (a) said filter of step (b) of claim 1 for said each pixel is a matrix which depends upon  $r = d_x/d_y$  with  $d_x$  is a measure of variation in the x-direction at said each pixel and  $d_y$  is a measure of variation in the x-direction- y-direction at said each pixel.

**Claim 5 (original) The method of claim 1, wherein:**

- (a) said image is a color channel of a color image.**